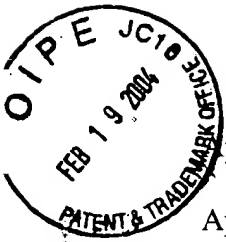


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Sam E. KINNEY, Jr. et al. :

Examiner: Alain Bashore

Application No.: 09/490,867

Group No.: 3624

Filed: January 24, 2000

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS
FOR CORRECTING FAILURES
WITH PARTICIPANT
ISOLATION IN A DUTCH
AUCTION

RECEIVED
FEB 25 2004
GROUP 3600

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 30, 2003, Applicants respectfully submit the following amendments and remarks. A Petition for a Two-Month Extension of Time is filed simultaneously herewith and forms a part hereof:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Specification are reflected in the paragraphs from the specification which begin on page 8 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents and/or fees referred to herein as transmitted, submitted or enclosed are being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Name: Daniel H. Golub Signature:  Date: February 17, 2004